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HOUSE MEMORIAL 18

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Gail C. Beam

A MEMORIAL

PROCLAIMING FEBRUARY 9, 2005 TO BE "DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY"
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND DECLARING LEGISLATIVE
SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS THAT SERVE PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
LIVING IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES AND THAT PERMIT
CONSUMER-DIRECTED SERVICES.

WHEREAS, over twenty percent of the population of New
Mexico is comprised of persons with disabilities, including
young and middle-aged people, seniors, disabled veterans,
paralyzed veterans, parents, husbands, wives, children and
people of all races and ethnic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, people with disabilities prefer to live in their
own homes and communities so as to be near friends and
relatives, to work, to go to church and to enjoy recreational
and social stimulation from libraries, schools, theaters,

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1 community centers, museums, skiing, fishing, boating and the
2 many other wonderful attractions in New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, most people with disabilities prefer living in a
4 community but may need personal care services, accessibility of
5 the built environment, home modifications, healthy housing,
6 transportation, adequate health insurance and health care and
7 assistive technology to do so; and

8 WHEREAS, the United States supreme court has promoted
9 community living through its *Olmstead* decision, which urges all
10 fifty states to plan for people to live in communities rather
11 than in institutions; and

12 WHEREAS, millions of dollars come into the state to help
13 New Mexicans with disabilities, both young and old, through
14 medicaid and medicare, vocational rehabilitation, housing,
15 education and job training, in-home care and transportation
16 programs; and

17 WHEREAS, these programs need vigilant attention by
18 consumers, advocates and legislators to prevent fragmentation
19 and lack of coordination, to preserve funding and
20 accountability and to promote consumer choice and control in
21 service delivery; and

22 WHEREAS, Governor Bill Richardson's initiative supporting
23 increased hiring of persons with disabilities within state
24 government is encouraged for all state agencies; and

25 WHEREAS, the legislature has been a longtime supporter of

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1 disabled New Mexico residents and continues to support them and
2 encourage their involvement with the legislature and society;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 9,
5 2005 be proclaimed "Disability Awareness Day" in the house of
6 representatives; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that disability programs, such as
8 the personal care option and working disabled individual
9 programs in medicaid, and the timely receipt of services under
10 the disabled and elderly and developmental disabilities
11 medicaid waivers be supported and that agencies providing
12 services be requested to unite and coordinate more effectively
13 their programs to provide timely, optimal and appropriate
14 services to assist persons with disabilities to live and work
15 independently in their own communities; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that legislation that promotes
17 freedom of choice as to whom, what, when, where and how
18 services are delivered and legislation that promotes both self-
19 determination and consumer direction of such services be
20 supported; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the head of each state agency to encourage state
23 agencies to hire persons with disabilities.